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for his great work. In the preparation of this article we have reperused the larger part of the two volumes, with renewed pleasure in their learning, careful research, profound philosophy, picturesque and vivid description, and inexhaustible wit. We shall eagerly look for the succeeding volumes, with the full portraiture of Frederick II. On their appearance, we propose a renewal of our task, reviewing, in contrast with the apprenticeship of the crown prince, the trials and triumphs of the warrior and the king.

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## ART. XII.—CRITICAL NOTICES.

1. — *The Afternoon of Unmarried Life*. From the last London Edition. A Companion to "Woman's Thoughts about Women." New York: Rudd and Carleton. 1859. pp. 343.

THIS work, though bearing strong outward resemblance to the very popular little volume by Miss Mulock, is really by the author of "Morning Clouds." In some respects the tone of thought is similar in the two writers, and their minds have evidently gone over the same paths, and arrived at the same healthful conclusions. But in breadth of treatment and force of expression, as well as in the grasp of intricate problems and brave attack upon difficulties, Miss Mulock is far the superior of the two. The quiet and somewhat diffident aspect of the present volume will add to its charm, with many of those to whom it is especially addressed. The author is evidently embodying the result of long and careful thought upon the topics of which she treats; and if the extravagant utterances of our more valiant champions for Woman's Rights have done harm to the cause, they have also done some indirect service, by drawing more conservative and better-balanced minds into the same field. We rejoice at every new word spoken in behalf of this especial class of women, which asserts with dignity their worth as a social power, and serves to break down the restraints and the ridicule with which they have too often been helplessly surrounded. The volume before us contains a great deal of sound common-sense, and gives excellent counsel on many points. We heartily commend it for the kindness of its intention and the frankness of its speech on matters concerning which silence has ceased to be wisdom.